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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Dan Ozenberg DATE 12/23/81

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5508

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4249

SUBJECT: AMERICAN OBSERVERS TO VIET-NAM

1. TO INSURE THAT US OBSERVERS ARE FAMILIAR WITH INITIAL ACTIVITIES ON DAY AND EVENING OF ARRIVAL, AND TO AVOID UPSETTING GVN SENSITIVITIES CONNECTED WITH OBSERVERS' RECEPTION, REQUEST THAT GROUP BE BRIEFED PRIOR TO ARRIVAL SAIGON ON EVENTS IN STORE FOR THEM EVENING OF AUGUST 30, AS GIVEN BELOW (DISCUSSIONS RELATIVE TO SCHEDULING DURING REMAINDER OF PERIOD SCHEDULED FOR MORNING AUGUST 31):

A. OFFICIAL GVN RECEPTION COMMITTEE, PROBABLY HEADED BY FONMIN TRAN VAN DO, WILL GREET OBSERVERS.

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AMBASSADOR BUNKER AND GENERAL WESTMORELAND WILL BE PRESENT BUT THIS WILL BE GVN SHOW.

B. OBSERVER PARTY WILL BE CLEARED THROUGH CUSTOMS, ETC., BY GVN. THERE WILL BE NO RPT NO FORMAL PRESS CONFERENCE. BUT ANTICIPATE VERY CONSIDERABLE MEDIA ATTENTION TO ARRIVAL.

C. OFFICIAL OBSERVERS WILL LEAVE AIRPORT IN GVN VEHICLES WITH ENGLISH-SPEAKING GVN ESCORTS. (GOVERNMENT SENSITIVE ON THIS POINT: BELIEVE STRONGLY WE SHOULD RESPECT WISHES AND

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ACCEPT POSSIBILITY OF SOME CONFUSION). MISSION WILL PROVIDE VEHICLES AND ESCORTS FOR ACCOMPANYING PARTY.

D. GVN WILL DELIVER OBSERVERS INDIVIDUALLY TO PRIVATE US RESIDENCES AT WHICH THEY WILL STAY. AT THIS POINT, GVN REMOVES ITSELF FROM PICTURE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 2. EACH OBSERVER WILL BE MET AT QUARTERS BYUS ESCORT OFFICER WHO WILL BE AVAILABLE ACCOMPANY HIM THROUGHOUT VIST, AS DESIRED, EXCEPT FOR OCCASIONS WHEN OBSERVER FOLLOWS GVN ITINERARY.

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E. OBSERVERS WILL HAVE OPTION OF ATTENDING INFORMAL COCKTAIL HOUR AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE OR DINNER AND EVENING OF REST AT QUARTERS. EXCEPT FOR COCKTAIL INVITATION, WHICH ENTIRELY OPTIONAL, NO ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR REMAINDER OF AUGUST 30. ESCORTS WILL GIVE OBSERVERS PLANNED SCHEDULE FOR MORNING OF AUGUST 31 AND OUTLINE OF POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES THEREAFTER. INDIVIDUAL SCHEDULES WILL, OF COURSE, BE BASED INSOFAR AS POSSIBLE ON INDIVIDUAL PREFERENCES.

2. IN VIEW REATIVELY SIMPLE SCHEDULE FIRST EVENING, HAVE DECIDED NOT TO HAVE MISSION OFFICER MEET PLANE AT YAKOTA AFB AND ASK THAT DEPARTMENT OFFICER WITH OFFICIAL PARTY CONVEY INFORMATION CONTAINED THIS MESSAGE TO OBSERVERS BUNKER

NOTE: HANDLED LIMDIS PER S/S-O.

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